

**BOARD OF ADA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION  
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016  
6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Ada County Commissioners (Board) met this date in the Public Hearing Room of the Ada County Courthouse Complex to hear the preliminary budget presentation for the fiscal year 2017. Staff present: Chris Rich, Clerk's Office; Jan Bennetts, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Bob McQuade, Assessor's Office; Dotti Owens, Coroner's Office; and Stephen Bartlett, Sheriff's Office. Minutes Recorder: Judy Morris.

---

**I. IN THE MATTER OF CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Jim Tibbs called the meeting of the Ada County Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. IN THE MATTER OF ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Jim Tibbs, Rick Yzaguirre and David L. Case were present.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- Tentative Budget

J. Tibbs introduced the elected officials and opened the public hearing. He explained the budget process and timelines. He then turned the meeting over to Chris Rich.

C. Rich recognized his staff and acknowledged their involvement with the process. He discussed the circumstances that began the new budget process and how the County corrected the course of its finances over the past couple years, stabilizing and replenishing the general fund. He explained that the years holding back spending, however, was done at the expense of maintaining County facilities, reducing the level of services provided and restricting the ability to attract employees. He advised that the County levied few, if any, taxes during the recession even as Ada County's population grew. He stated that Ada County's growth exceeded 70,000 people over the past 10 years, more than the population of Idaho Falls.

He said the budget being presented is not moving the County forward or offering bold initiatives to get ahead of growth, but playing catch up to attempt to maintain the County's buildings, computer infrastructure and personnel resources. He advised that the budget being proposed for FY17 totals \$228.5 million, which is \$2.9 million less than FY16. He stated that no forgone taxes are being used. The budget utilizes \$3.8 million dollars from new construction, \$3.1 million from the 3% tax levy and \$1.25 million in new, additional departmental revenue. He added that built into the budget was a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) and a 2% merit pool.

He discussed the job market in the valley and the challenges attracting perspective employees. He stated that the County is, and will more than likely remain, behind wages in the public sector and is also slipping in relation to other government employers. He explained that the COLA attempts to help retain employees and the 2% merit pool is included to recognize employees that go above and beyond what they are asked.

He began his presentation with a slide showing the County departments broken out by fund for FY17 and FY16, identifying the percentage of their increase or decrease. He stated that his presentation would be focusing on the departments that have notable increases, capital projects or changes in personnel. He reviewed those individual department budgets and explained their requests and funding in further detail.

He advised that there was one last capital expense in the budget at \$300,000 for a long term facilities plan in order for the County and public to fully understand the scale and scope of the capital projects the County is facing. He noted that \$70 million of needed capital projects including a multi-million dollar parking facility and extensive remodeling of the public safety building are not included in this budget. He reiterated the need for a plan to move the county forward.

He concluded his presentation restating the FY17 budget comes in at \$228.5 million, which is \$2.9 million less than last year. He said the budget is balanced. The budget focuses on maintenance of our resources, such as the Greenbelt, and attempts to bring some salaries closer to market so people can be hired in critical areas and to reduce turnover in other areas due to the County's pay being so low.

J. Tibbs invited testimony.

Gary Aimes stated his name and address for the record. He questioned whether funding for the Housing First Initiative had been included in the tentative budget. He presented testimony supporting the project.

J. Tibbs advised that \$250,000 has been set aside in the budget.

Kim Blough stated his name and address for the record. He presented testimony expressing concerns regarding the sustainability of the budget based on property taxes.

C. Rich responded that for many years the County did not levy any taxes, creating the shortfall that put the County in the position of using one-time money to fund ongoing operating expenses.

Wyatt Schrader stated his name and address for the record. He presented testimony supporting funding for Housing First.

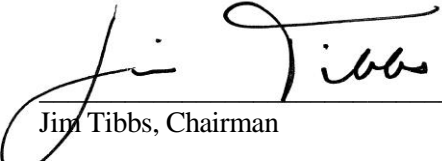
Barbara Kemp stated her name and address for the record. She reiterated W. Schrader's testimony.

C. Rich advised that the Tentative Budget will be adopted on July 26th; published on August 2nd; and adopted on August 9th.

J. Tibbs thanked the Clerk's office, Elected Officials and Department Heads for their work on the budget. He advised that he is happy with the final budget. He restated that the County is required to fund certain federal and state mandates. He then closed the public hearing.

**IV. IN THE MATTER OF RECESS:**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was recessed at 6:43 p.m.

  
Jim Tibbs, Chairman

ATTEST:



Christopher D. Rich, Ada County Clerk